MARVEL

THE WEDDING SPECIAL

#1

X-MEN

3 TALES OF MUTANT MATRIMONY IN THE MAKING!

BY

CHRIS CLAREMONT & TODD NAUCK

MARC GUGGENHEIM & GREG LAND

KELLY THOMPSON & MARIKA CRESTA

GENETICALLY GIFTED WITH UNCANNY ABILITIES, MUTANTS ARE BELIEVED TO BE THE NEXT STAGE OF HUMAN EVOLUTION. WHILE THE WORLD HATES AND FEARS THEM, KITTY PRYDE HAS RE-FORMED THE TEAM OF MUTANT HEROES KNOWN AS THE X-MEN TO USE THEIR POWERS FOR GOOD AND SPREAD A POSITIVE IMAGE OF MUTANTKIND.

WHEN KITTY PRYDE RECONNECTED WITH THE X-MEN, SHE ALSO RECONNECTED WITH FORMER LOVER PIOTR RASPUTIN, A.K.A. THE METALLIC MUTANT NAMED COLOSSUS! THEIR REVIVED ROMANCE QUICKLY BLOSSOMED INTO AN ENGAGEMENT. BUT WHAT'S A WEDDING WITHOUT THE RESPECTIVE BACHELOR AND BACHELORETTE PARTIES...

X-MEN
THE WEDDING SPECIAL

THE DREAM BEFORE

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X-MEN CREATED BY **STAN LEE AND JACK KIRBY**

I HAVE THIS NIGHTMARE.
I'VE NEVER TOLD ANYONE ABOUT IT, WHICH IS A NEAT TRICK WHEN TWO OF MY VERY BEST FRIENDS ARE TELEPATHS.
BACK IN THE DAY, I FOUND MYSELF TRAPPED INSIDE WHAT WAS BASICALLY A GIANT SPACE BULLET.
I SACRIFICED MYSELF TO SAVE MY FRIENDS, MY WORLD. DIDN'T MIND PAYING FOR IT WITH MY LIFE.
ONLY IT WASN'T THAT SIMPLE.
I DIDN'T DIE. I WENT INTO A KIND OF FUGUE STATE. I WAS GOING TO STAY LOCKED IN THIS PROJECTILE PRISON, CONSCIOUS AND ALIVE, LIKELY 'TIL THE END OF TIME.
BUT THEN, RESCUE CAME. ALMOST ALWAYS DOES. MY LIFE AS AN X-MAN WENT ON.
EXCEPT--
--I STILL FIND MYSELF HAUNTED BY THE FEAR...
...THAT I NEVER ESCAPED.
I'M STILL STUCK HERE.
FORGOTTEN.
FOREVER LOST IN SPACE.
ALONE.

BUT THE JOKE IS, I'M NEVER ALONE.
I HAVE MEMORIES.
EVER BEEN TO DEERFIELD? SUBURB OF CHICAGO--GO CUBS!--WHERE I GREW UP.
KATHERINE ANNE PRYDE, DAUGHTER OF CARMEN AND THERESA.
NORMAL KID, NORMAL LIFE--
--WELL, OKAY, SO I'M WAY SMARTER THAN ANY KID HAS A RIGHT TO BE AND MAYBE I TEND TO SHOW OFF ABOUT IT JUST A TAD.
MY SMARTS GET ME INTO TROUBLE ALMOST AS MUCH AS MY HEART--
--BUT THEY'VE ALSO HELPED ME SAVE PEOPLE, AND PLANETS, AND A WHOLE LOT MORE BESIDES.
LIFE WAS SO SIMPLE BACK THEN, SO--NORMAL. I WAS GONNA GO TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, MEET A GUY, SAVE THE WORLD.
FUNNY HOW FATE LIKES TO PLAY TRICKS.
THAT WAS BEFORE I LEARNED I COULD WALK THROUGH WALLS.

I'M WHAT FOLKS CALL A *MUTANT*, WHICH MEANS I'M BORN WITH ABILITIES--THEY CALL THEM SUPER-POWERS--THAT SET ME APART FROM EVERYONE ELSE.

THAT SEEMS TO SCARE MOST PEOPLE.

AVENGERS, THEY'RE HEROES--THEY'RE COOL.

X-MEN, WE'RE MONSTERS.

AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I LEARNED THE DAY WE MET.

WE WERE HAVING SUCH A GREAT TIME--

--UNTIL WE GOT AMBUSHED BY THE *HELLFIRE CLUB*.

THEY WERE BILLIONAIRES, AND MUTANTS WERE VALUABLE ASSETS THEY WERE DETERMINED TO CONTROL.

OR, IF YOU DEFIED THEM, *ELIMINATE*.

THE X-MEN STAND FOR SOMETHING BETTER--AS PEOPLE AND WHAT THEY FIGHT FOR.

THAT DAY, THEY FOUGHT FOR ME--AND BECAME MY LIFELONG FRIENDS.

I BECAME A STUDENT AT PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.

AND A MEMBER-IN-TRAINING OF THE X-MEN.

I WAS 13, AND I WAS GONNA BE A SUPER HERO!

I WONDER, IF I'D KNOWN WHAT WAS TO COME, WOULD I HAVE GONE ON REGARDLESS...
...OR RUN SCREAMING BACK HOME TO MOM AND DAD?
I WAS STILL A KID WHEN I FOUGHT A DEMON SINGLE-HANDED...
...WHEN I HELPED THE X-MEN SAVE THE WORLD--
--WHEN WE SAVED A WHOLE ALIEN GALAXY.
WHEN I ALMOST LOST MY SOUL.
OGUN'S INSIDE YOUR SOUL. EVENTUALLY, HE'LL OVERWHELM YOU COMPLETELY.
UNLESS YOU DRIVE HIM OUT.
I-- CAN'T!
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN TRY, GIRL, YOU DON'T BELONG HERE.
BETTER YOU GO HOME BEFORE SOMEONE DEPENDS ON YOU--
--AN' YOU GET 'EM KILLED.
08:27:43
I WON THAT BATTLE, BUT THERE WAS WAY WORSE TO COME.
MR. AND MRS. PRYDE, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO INTO WITNESS PROTECTION.
AS PER YOUR WISHES--AND HERS-- YOUR DAUGHTER KATHERINE WILL RETURN TO XAVIER'S SCHOOL TO COMPLETE HER EDUCATION.
NEXT THING I KNEW, MY PARENTS WERE GETTING DIVORCED.
BUT LIFE WASN'T ALL BAD.
I HAD A BOYFRIEND.
OKAY, WE WERE FROM TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS; HE WAS RUSSIAN, I'M FROM CHICAGO-- BUT THE LOVE WE FELT WAS REAL.
OR SO I THOUGHT.
I MET SOMEONE ELSE. WE FELL IN LOVE.
SHE DIED.
OH.

THAT ACTUALLY HURT WAY MORE THAN THE MOMENT I LEARNED MY FOLKS WERE SPLITTING UP.

AT LEAST I KNEW THEY BOTH LOVED ME.

THIS WAS THE WORLD SHATTERING BENEATH MY FEET.

23:57:03

BUT I'M AN X-MAN, AND WHAT WE DO BEST IS *SURVIVE.*

AT LEAST, UNTIL THE *"MUTANT MASSACRE"* ALMOST WIPED US OUT.

AFTERWARDS, I FELT SO *DONE* WITH THE SUPER HERO LIFE--I NEEDED A BREAK.

I DECIDED TO COME HOME TO CHICAGO AND GO BACK TO SCHOOL. THAT WAS SO MUCH *FUN.*

UNTIL DUTY CALLED.

NIGHTCRAWLER AND I ENDED UP IN ENGLAND...

...WHERE WE FOUNDED A NEW TEAM OF HEROES WITH CAPTAIN BRITAIN, HIS TRUE LOVE MEGGAN AND RACHEL SUMMERS: *EXCALIBUR.*

I'D STARTED AT THE XAVIER SCHOOL AS THE YOUNGEST STUDENT, THE X-MEN TEAM ROOKIE; NOW I WAS TAKING OVER AS HEAD OF BOTH THE SCHOOL *AND* THE TEAM.

NOT QUITE THE LIFE OR FATE I DREAMED OF.

ULTIMATELY, I CAME HOME TO THE SCHOOL--

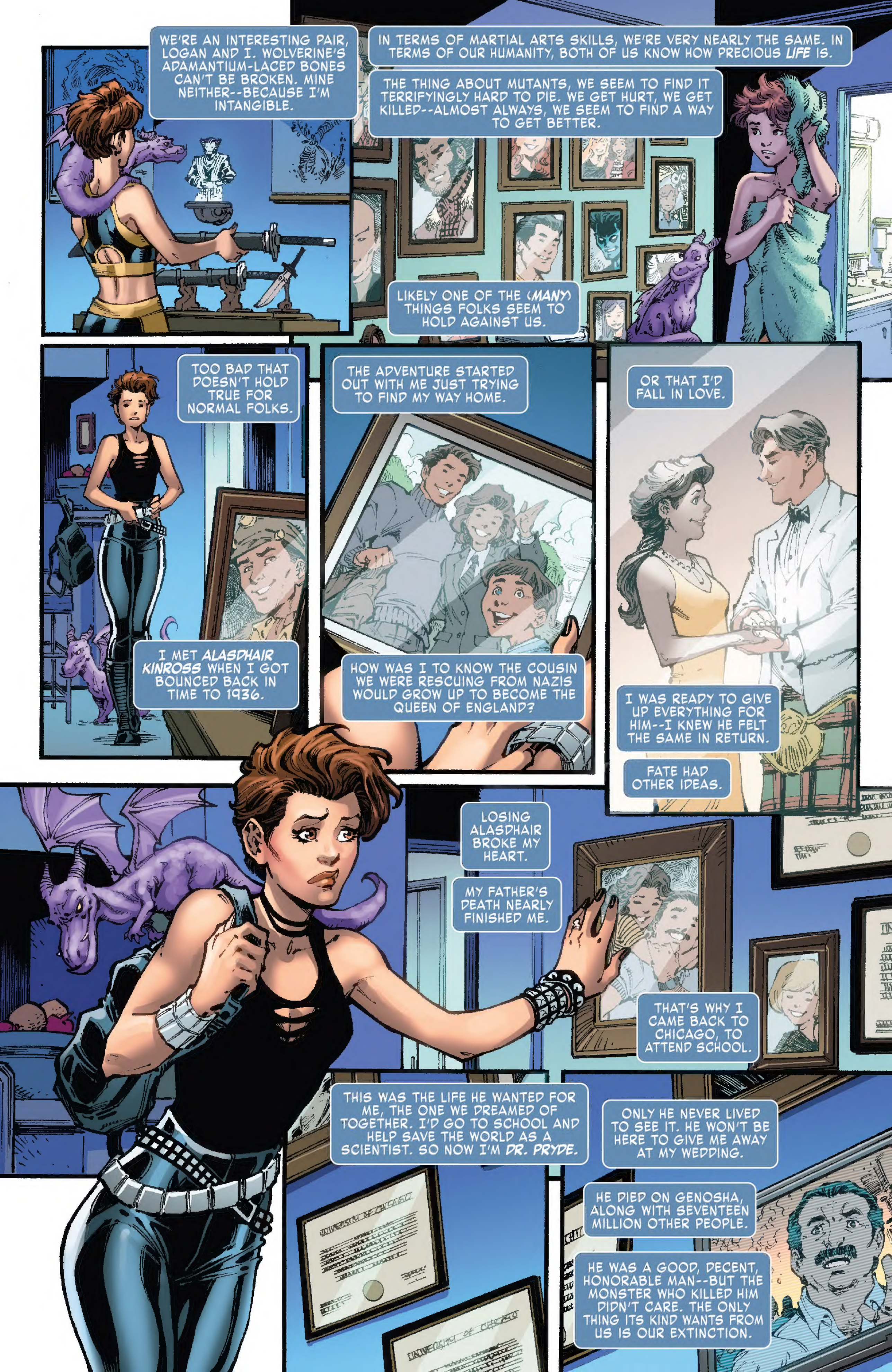
--JUST IN TIME TO SAVE THE PLANET FROM A GIANT SPACE *"BULLET."* THAT'S WHERE I THOUGHT MY STORY WOULD END.

BEING AN X-MAN, I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.

24:00:00

BEEP-BEEP

WHO SAYS GOD DOESN'T HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR?


WE'RE AN INTERESTING PAIR, LOGAN AND I. WOLVERINE'S ADAMANTIUM-LACED BONES CAN'T BE BROKEN. MINE NEITHER--BECAUSE I'M INTANGIBLE.
IN TERMS OF MARTIAL ARTS SKILLS, WE'RE VERY NEARLY THE SAME. IN TERMS OF OUR HUMANITY, BOTH OF US KNOW HOW PRECIOUS *LIFE* IS.
THE THING ABOUT MUTANTS, WE SEEM TO FIND IT TERRIFYINGLY HARD TO DIE. WE GET HURT, WE GET KILLED--ALMOST ALWAYS, WE SEEM TO FIND A WAY TO GET BETTER.
LIKELY ONE OF THE (*MANY*) THINGS FOLKS SEEM TO HOLD AGAINST US.
TOO BAD THAT DOESN'T HOLD TRUE FOR NORMAL FOLKS.
I MET *ALASDHAIR KINROSS* WHEN I GOT BOUNCED BACK IN TIME TO 1936.
THE ADVENTURE STARTED OUT WITH ME JUST TRYING TO FIND MY WAY HOME.
HOW WAS I TO KNOW THE COUSIN WE WERE RESCUING FROM NAZIS WOULD GROW UP TO BECOME THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND?
OR THAT I'D FALL IN LOVE.
I WAS READY TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING FOR HIM--I KNEW HE FELT THE SAME IN RETURN.
FATE HAD OTHER IDEAS.
LOSING ALASDHAIR BROKE MY HEART.
MY FATHER'S DEATH NEARLY FINISHED ME.
THAT'S WHY I CAME BACK TO CHICAGO, TO ATTEND SCHOOL.
THIS WAS THE LIFE HE WANTED FOR ME, THE ONE WE DREAMED OF TOGETHER. I'D GO TO SCHOOL AND HELP SAVE THE WORLD AS A SCIENTIST. SO NOW I'M *DR. PRYDE*.
ONLY HE NEVER LIVED TO SEE IT. HE WON'T BE HERE TO GIVE ME AWAY AT MY WEDDING.
HE DIED ON GENOSHA, ALONG WITH SEVENTEEN MILLION OTHER PEOPLE.
HE WAS A GOOD, DECENT, HONORABLE MAN--BUT THE MONSTER WHO KILLED HIM DIDN'T CARE. THE ONLY THING ITS KIND WANTS FROM US IS OUR EXTINCTION.

I SAY WHATEVER.
I'M KITTY PRYDE.
I'M AN X-MAN.
BELLES OF HELL
BAR SP
I SAVE PEOPLE.
I SAVE THE WORLD.
IF NEED BE, I'LL SAVE CREATION ITSELF.
YO, HONEY, IZZAT DRAGON--I DUNNO--REAL?
ASK HIM YOURSELF, WHY DON'T'CHA?
¿YAWWWWWWWN!¿
ON THE HOUSE, BUB--'CAUSE YOU LOOK LIKE YOU NEED IT.
BUT THIS IS THE LAST, 'KAY?
ALL GOOD, KAT?
HONESTLY, BOSS--HAVEN'T A CLUE.
I'M GETTING MARRIED, DYLAN.
BACK HOME, MY BEST BUDS ARE ABOUT TO THROW ME A MONSTER BACHELORETTE PARTY. THIS SHOULD BE THE HAPPIEST TIME OF MY LIFE...
...AND ALL I WANT TO DO IS RUN AWAY.

HARD, ISN'T IT, KATHERINE, BEING GROWN-UP?
KURT!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
WHERE ELSE WOULD I BE ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS?

LOGAN HAS WATCHED OUT FOR YOU SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.
I AM HIS BEST FRIEND-- AND ONE OF YOURS. IN HIS ABSENCE, I STAND IN FOR HIM.

HEY, ARE YOU-- REAL?
HE'S A REGULAR.

AND HE'S MY FRIEND.
GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT, PAL?

I JUST WISH...
YOU COULD RUN AWAY?
I'M SCARED--
GASP!
ALASDHAIR?
LOVE AND MARRIAGE, KURT--THE COMMITMENT THAT DEMANDS--
--THE LIFE WE LEAD.
THEY DON'T GO WELL TOGETHER.
THEN WALK AWAY.
THERE'S NOTHING TO STOP YOU. NONE OF YOUR FRIENDS WILL CALL YOU OUT. I THINK EVEN PETER WOULD UNDERSTAND.
YOU SOUND LIKE LOGAN.
WE ARE AS GOD MADE US, KÄTZCHEN.
WHATEVER HAPPENS AFTER THAT RESTS ON OUR SHOULDERS.
IT'S EASY TO PLAY LIFE SAFE, TAKE NO RISKS, NEVER LOVE--
--OR BE LOVED.
DADDY?
IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?

YOU'RE MY MEMORIES.
A PART OF ME, FOR NOW AND ALWAYS.
BUT LIFE DOESN'T CARE, LIFE MOVES ON.
THAT'S LIFE, BABY GIRL.
IS THAT A BAD THING?
HAVING BEEN TO HEAVEN MYSELF, KATHERINE, I CAN SAY TWO THINGS FOR SURE--
HEAVEN--LIKE, I PRAY, GOD'S MERCY--IS INFINITE.
WE ARE NOT--WHICH MAKES THIS DANCE OF OURS, LIFE, MATTER ALL THE MORE.
THE CHOICES WE MAKE, THE CHANCES WE TAKE, DEFINE US.
BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU HAVE LOST, THIS COMMITMENT MATTERS ALL THE MORE.
TRUST YOUR HEART, KIDDO--IT WON'T LET'CHA DOWN.
DON'T FEAR THE MAN OR THE MOMENT.
EMBRACE THEM BOTH.
I WILL--
--KURT, LOGAN, ALASDHAIR--
--DAD!
I--DO.
THE END.

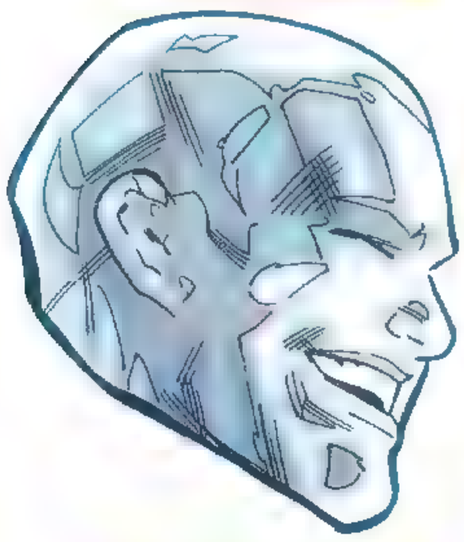
MARVEL COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS THE X-MEN STARRING IN...

BOYS' NIGHT OUT

COLOSSUS
PETER RASPUTIN

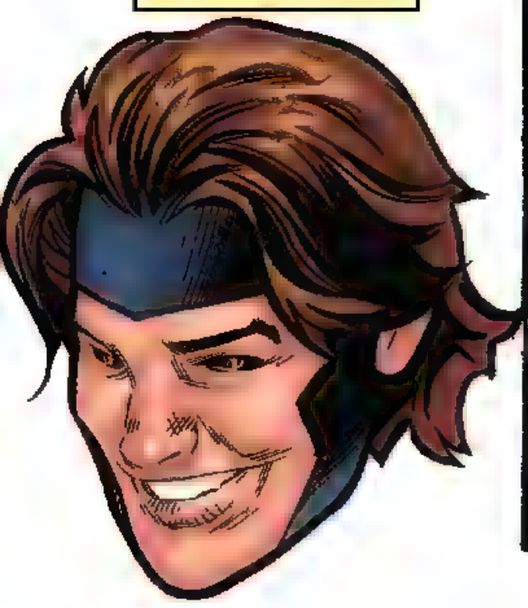
NIGHTCRAWLER
KURT WAGNER

ICEMAN
BOBBY DRAKE



PYRO
SIMON LASKER

GAMBIT
REMY LEBEAU



MONTHS AGO.
DURING SECRET EMPIRE.

"I'M SORRY, KRELLICK.

"I KNOW IT'S BEEN A DIFFICULT FEW MONTHS FOR YOU..."

SEE X-MEN GOLD #7 -DS

NOW.
WONG'S OFFICE IN THE HOTEL INFERNO.

...BUT, AS MANAGER, I HAVE TO LET YOU GO.

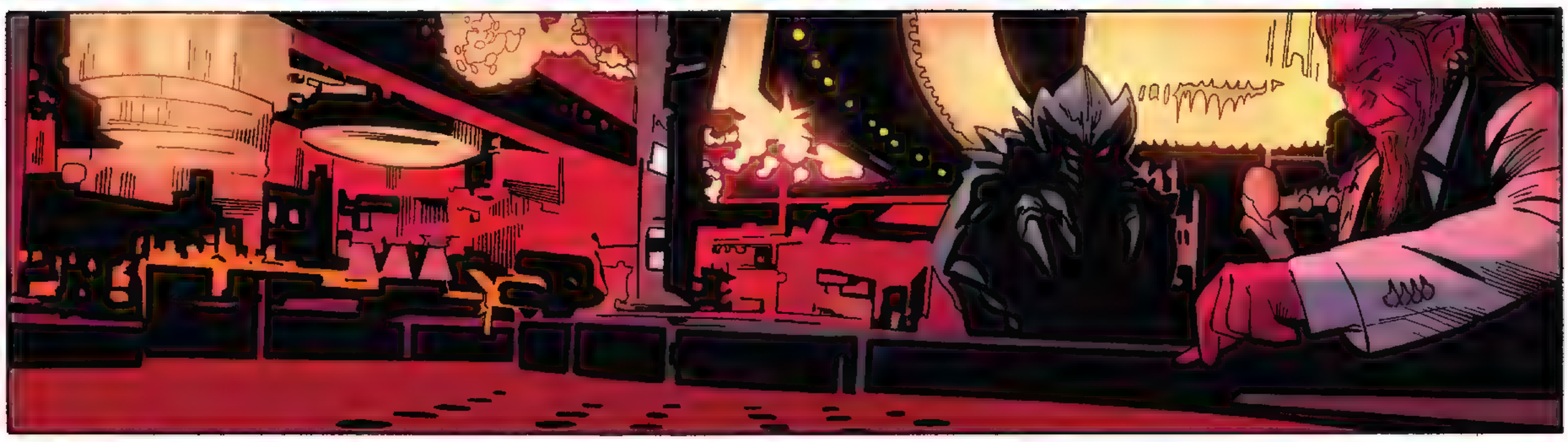
WHAT? THE CASINO JUST OPENED--

AND IN A REMARKABLY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME YOU'VE MANAGED TO DRIVE OFF DOZENS OF CUSTOMERS.

YOU ATTACK AND BERATE ANYONE YOU SUSPECT OF CHEATING. QUITE FRANKLY, IT'S SCARING THE CLIENTELE.

THE CLIENTELE *COME* TO BE SCARED. EVERYONE WORKING HERE IS A *DEMON*, WONG!

"...I'M VERY SORRY."



A CITY OF PURE DECADENCE AND ADVENTURE.
WHY COULDN'T KITTY HAVE HAD THE MANSION RELOCATED HERE?
YOU OKAY, PETEY? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HEADED TO A FUNERAL INSTEAD OF YOUR BACHELOR PARTY.
I WAS HOPING FOR A QUIET EVENING.
FAT CHANCE OF THAT, BOYO.
WE NEED TO GET THIS MAN DRUNK AND PRONTO.
BABY STEPS, SIMON. FIRST, WE'RE GOING TO--
PLEASE DON'T SAY A STRIP CLUB.
--A CASINO!
OR THAT.
HOW 'BOUT THIS PLACE, KURT?
I IMAGINE YOU'LL FEEL RIGHT AT HOME.
WUNDERBAR.

ONE TWISTING OF PETER'S ARM AND MUCH CAJOLING LATER.
"ENJOY! LOSE SOME MONEY! WE'RE OFF IN SEARCH OF A CRAPS TABLE."
"AND BOOZE."
"AND BOOZE!"

C'MON, PETE, YOU'RE IN VEGAS. IN A CASINO RUN BY DEMONS.
ENJOY IT. THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST YOU TRYING TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN.
YOU THINK I'M OPPOSED TO HAVING FUN?
I THINK, RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE DOING AN EXCELLENT IMPRESSION OF A GUY WHO'S OPPOSED TO HAVING FUN.

I'M ABOUT TO BE MARRIED. TO THE LOVE OF MY LIFE.
WHY WOULD I CHOOSE TO CELEBRATE THAT WITH A NIGHT OF DEBAUCHERY AND RECKLESS ABANDON?
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO CELEBRATE IT?

WITH HER.
I REALLY DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND HOW THIS WHOLE "BACHELOR PARTY" THING'S SUPPOSED TO WORK.
IT'S A CELEBRATION OF YOUR INDEPENDENCE AND YOUR MANHOOD. AND EVEN IF IT WEREN'T, YOU SHOULD EMBRACE THE OPPORTUNITY TO NOT BE AN X-MAN FOR ONCE AND JUST RELAX.
EXCUSE ME...

...DID YOU SAY HE'S AN X-MAN?
WE BOTH ARE.
IS THAT GONNA BE A PROBLEM?
AAHRRAAAG
GHHHHH!
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO ASK HIM IF IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM?
IT WAS RHETORICAL.
I'M GOING TO KILL YOOOOOOOOUUUU!

UM... GUYS?
THIS...
...IS GONNA BE THE BEST EVENING EVER.
BAMF
BAMF
YOU JUMPED THE ITINERARY, PETER!
GETTING INTO A BARROOM BRAWL WAS SCHEDULED *AFTER* THE NIGHTCLUB AND THE STRIP CLUB!
I TOLD YOU...
...I DON'T WANT TO GO TO A STRIP CLUB!
UM...DOES ANYBODY KNOW WHY THIS DEMON'S SO PISSED AT US?
LIKE ANYONE EVER *NEEDS* A REASON, BOYO...

THAT'S IT. I'M PUTTING SCALEFACE ON ICE.
HOLD UP, MEIN FREUND...
...THIS MIGHT BE JUST THE THING WE NEED TO GET PIOTR TO LOOSEN UP A LITTLE.
CHA
OUCHIE.
OOOH...
THAT'S GOTTA HURT.
SHASTRA!

ZARATHURA COM NON SALASTRIN.

NOW, THEN. WHAT MANNER OF INSANITY IS THIS?

X-MEN! THESE HUMANS ARE FROM THE SAME GROUP OF MUTANTS WHO *ATTACKED* ME MONTHS AGO!

WE'VE NEVER MET YOU BEFORE IN OUR LIVES!

WHICH OF THESE X-MEN ATTACKED YOU?

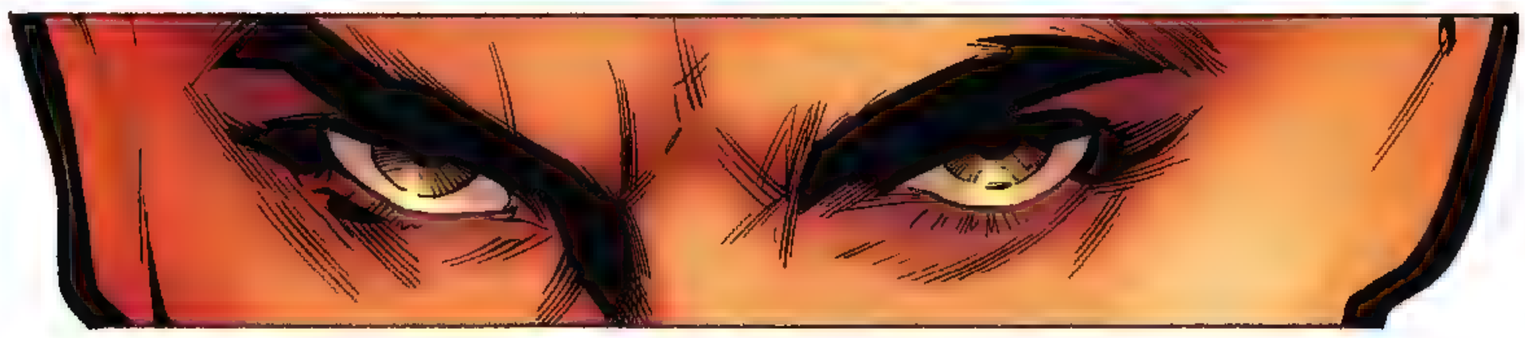
WELL, THEY'RE NOT HERE. THEY--IT WAS AN OLD MAN AND A WOMAN WHO WIELDED LIGHTNING.

BUT THEY'RE ALLIED WITH THEM!

THIS DEMON ATTACKED YOU?

YES.

IT WAS *WUNDERBAR!*



ONE BILL FOR PROPERTY DAMAGE LATER...

SEE WHERE THEY ENDED UP IN X-MEN GOLD #26!

THE XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR MUTANT EDUCATION AND OUTREACH. CENTRAL PARK.

ARE YOU *CERTAIN* YOU NEED TO HAVE A BACHELORETTE PARTY, KITTY?

I AM.

WELL, A WHOLE BUNCH OF X-LADIES ARE... AND HAVE THREATENED MUTINY IF WE DON'T HAVE ONE.

BESIDES, *YOU* WENT TO VEGAS FOR YOUR BACHELOR PARTY!

YES, AND LOOK HOW WELL THAT WENT!

WELL, WE'RE NOT GOING TO VEGAS--JUST DOWNTOWN FOR A FEW HOURS. I THINK WE'LL BE FINE.

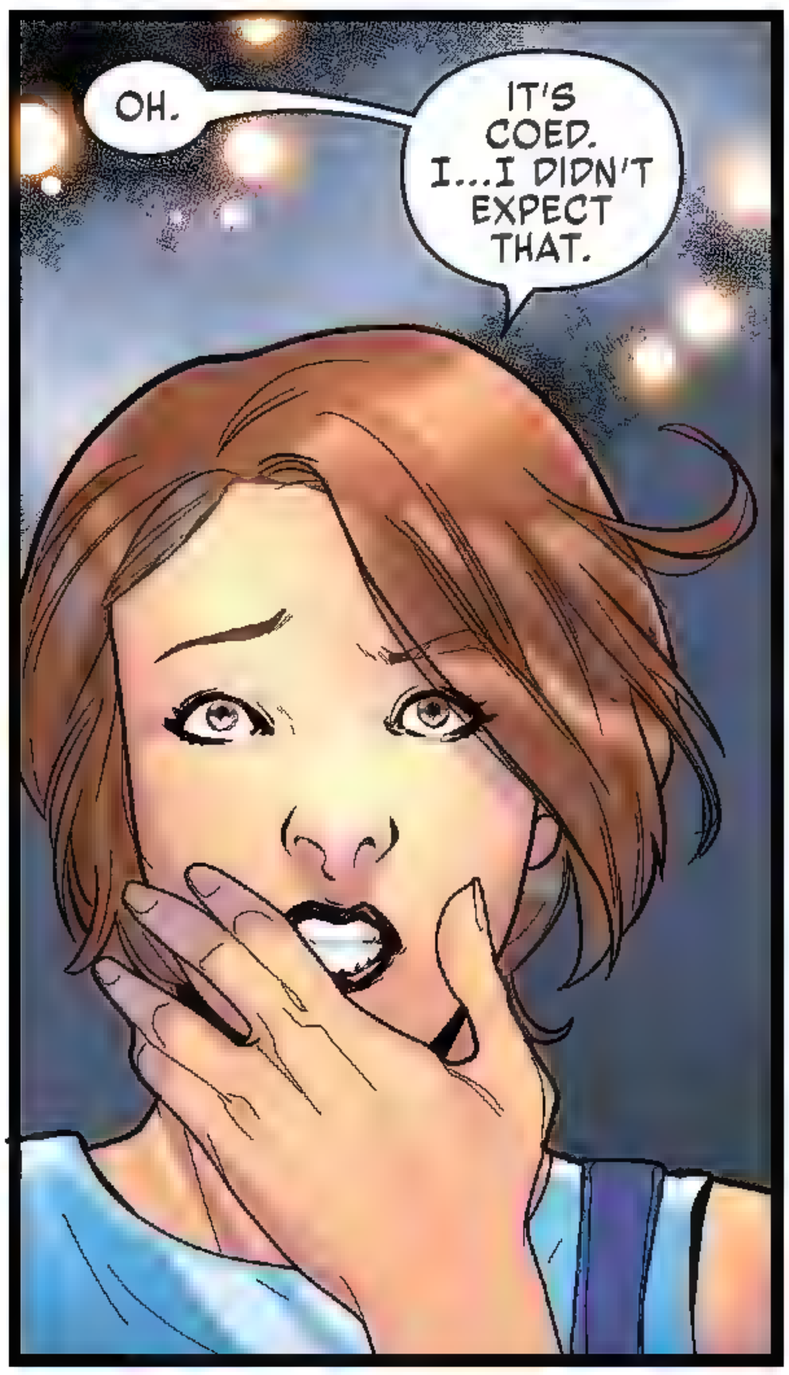
KITTY! HURRY UP!

WHO PLANNED THIS? BECAUSE IF IT'S ROGUE, YOU CAN'T GO. IF IT'S ORORO, THEN MAYBE IT'S FINE.

I THINK YOU'RE UNDERESTIMATING ORORO, PETE.

BUT SINCE YOU'RE GIVING ME THE IRRESISTIBLE PUPPY DOG EYES... THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. I DON'T KNOW WHO PLANNED IT, BUT IT'S *JUST* KARAOKE...

WAIT. WHAT'S STRIPPEROKE?!
IT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, KITTY. KARAOKE PLUS STRIPPERS. IT'S NOT A PARTICULARLY CLEVER NAME, REALLY.
STRIPPEROKE
'RORO'S IDEA, HAND TA GOD.
IT IS TRUE. YOU WILL LOVE IT, KITTEN. I PROMISE.
GOING ON RECORD THAT I'M STILL ON THE FENCE. I PREDICT BADNESS.
ANNNNND NOW I KNOW WHY ILLYANA BAILED.
YES, WELL, ILLYANA'S NOT THE BRIDE, SO SHE HAS THAT OPTION...YOU'RE NOT SO FORTUNATE, I'M AFRAID.
ROGUE IS RIGHT. THERE IS NO ESCAPING US. YOUR FATE IS SEALED.
OHMIGOD. I HAVE NEVER WANTED A VILLAIN TO ATTACK US MORE THAN RIGHT NOW.

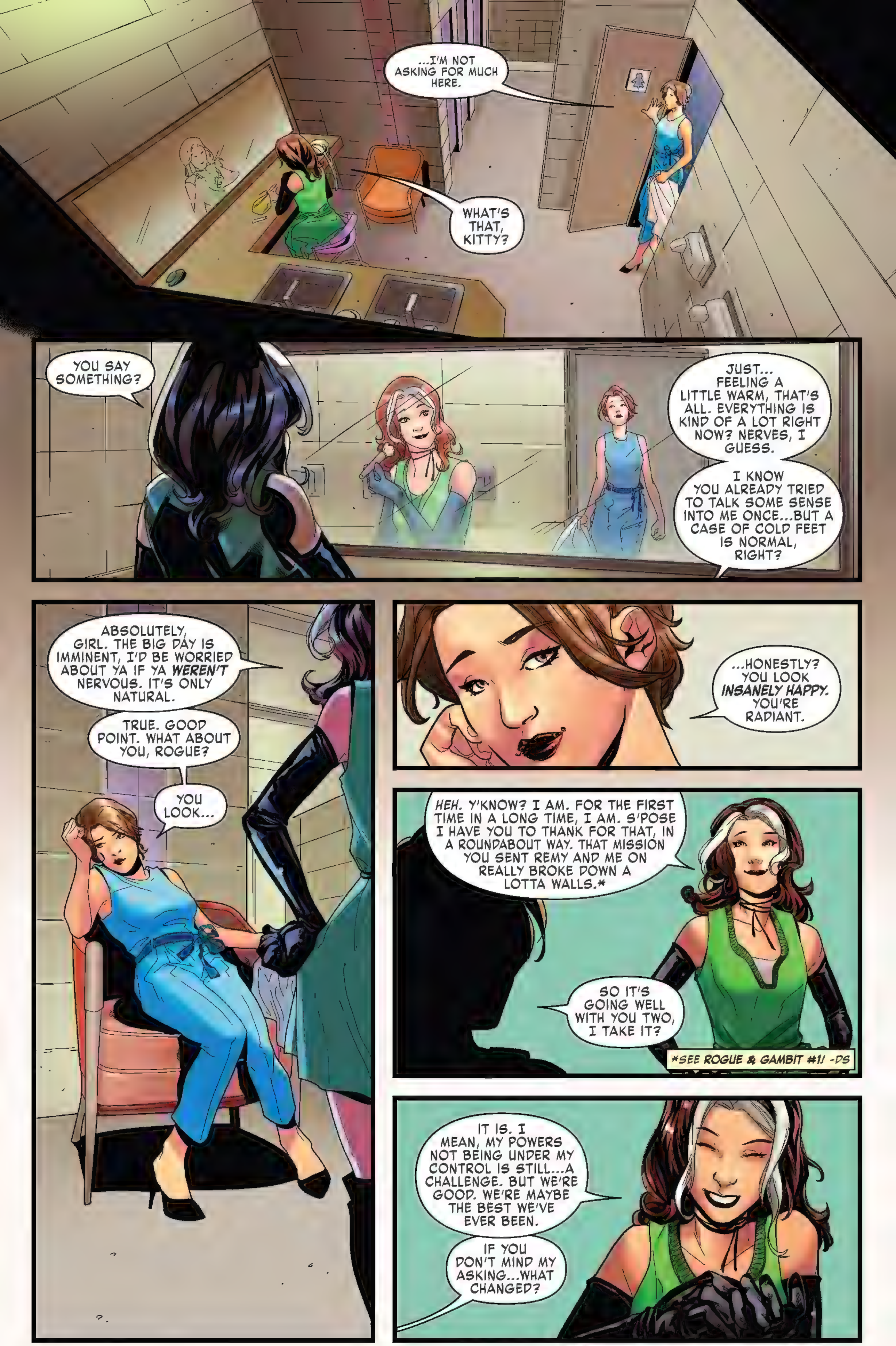

OH.
IT'S COED. I...I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT.

WHAT ARE WE, MONSTERS?
KITTY, WE'RE THE X-MEN. WE'RE ALL ABOUT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY...
...'CEPT WHEN IT COMES TO OUR NAME, I GUESS.

KITTY! LET'S GET SIGNED UP FOR A SONG BEFORE THE OTHERS ARRIVE! DO YOU WANT TO DO "THE ISLANDS IN THE STREAM" WITH ME? I WILL BE THE KENNY LOGS PART, YOU CAN BE THE DOLLY PARDONS PART!
THAT'S KENNY ROGERS AND DOLLY PARTON, MEGGAN.
YES! THEM!
Bride to

MAYBE IN A BIT, MEGGAN... I'VE GOT TO USE THE LADIES' ROOM.

CAN THE BROOD PLEASE ATTACK NOW? OR MAYBE I COULD BE TRAPPED IN A GIANT BULLET HURTLING THROUGH SPACE AGAIN...


...I'M NOT ASKING FOR MUCH HERE.
WHAT'S THAT, KITTY?
YOU SAY SOMETHING?
JUST... FEELING A LITTLE WARM, THAT'S ALL. EVERYTHING IS KIND OF A LOT RIGHT NOW? NERVES, I GUESS.
I KNOW YOU ALREADY TRIED TO TALK SOME SENSE INTO ME ONCE...BUT A CASE OF COLD FEET IS NORMAL, RIGHT?
ABSOLUTELY, GIRL. THE BIG DAY IS IMMINENT, I'D BE WORRIED ABOUT YA IF YA WEREN'T NERVOUS. IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
TRUE. GOOD POINT. WHAT ABOUT YOU, ROGUE?
YOU LOOK...
...HONESTLY? YOU LOOK INSANELY HAPPY. YOU'RE RADIANT.
HEH. Y'KNOW? I AM. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME, I AM. S'POSE I HAVE YOU TO THANK FOR THAT, IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY. THAT MISSION YOU SENT REMY AND ME ON REALLY BROKE DOWN A LOTTA WALLS.*
SO IT'S GOING WELL WITH YOU TWO, I TAKE IT?
*SEE ROGUE & GAMBIT #1! -DS
IT IS. I MEAN, MY POWERS NOT BEING UNDER MY CONTROL IS STILL...A CHALLENGE. BUT WE'RE GOOD. WE'RE MAYBE THE BEST WE'VE EVER BEEN.
IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING...WHAT CHANGED?

I THINK...I THINK I JUST STOPPED BEIN' AFRAID, KITTY. NOTHING WITH US X-MEN GOES HOW IT'S S'POSED TO GO, ANYWAY...OUR LIVES ARE JUST ONE DISASTER TUMBLIN' INTA THE NEXT...
BUT I THINK I JUST DECIDED TO SNATCH UP WHATEVER HAPPINESS I COULD FIND FOR AS LONG AS I COULD FIND IT.

JUST LIKE YOU, I EXPECT.
YEAH. YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. SNATCHING UP HAPPINESS DOESN'T SOUND BAD AT ALL.
RING RING

YOU MIND IF I TAKE THIS?
GO AHEAD. I'M GOING BACK TO FACE THE MUSIC... LITERALLY, I GUESS.

SINGING ON STAGE WITH STRIPPERS OR HURTLING THROUGH SPACE IN A GIANT BULLET... IT'S HONESTLY A TOSS-UP. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO PLAN SOME KIND OF REVENGE PARTY ON ORORO...

BZZZZTTTT

WELL, WELL, KITTY PRYDE, FANCY MEETING YOU HERE. IMAGINE MY SURPRISE.
EXCEPT YOU KIDNAPPED ME *AGAIN*, AND DRAGGED ME INTO A SEWER AGAIN, *CALLISTO*. *NOT MUCH SURPRISING ABOUT IT AT THIS POINT.*

YES, WELL, MAYBE I'VE BEEN MISSING OLD TIMES.
CAN'T SAY I AGREE.
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU THINK KIDNAPPINGS AND DUELS ARE THE WAYS TO SOLVE ALL YOUR PROBLEMS, BUT IT'S ABSURD. ALSO, IT NEVER SEEMS TO WORK OUT FOR YOU, SO YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHANGE YOUR APPROACH.

BESIDES, CALLISTO, I'M HARDLY THE CHILD I WAS THE LAST TIME YOU PULLED THIS NONSENSE WITH ME.* THIS TIME YOU CAN EXPECT...
*IN UNCANNY X-MEN #179! -DS

...TO LOSE!
KRAK

AND CONSIDER THAT A THANK YOU FOR ALL THE HELP YOU GAVE ME WHILE WE WERE SHARING A PRISON CELL.*
SNAP
I DIDN'T KILL YOU. THAT WAS HELPFUL.
*X-MEN GOLD #23! -DS

DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF.
I'M BEING SERIOUS. I THOUGHT I WAS PRETTY POLITE, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.

HOW DID YOU GET OUT, ANYWAY?
LIKE I'M GOING TO SHARE THAT WITH YOU? GIRL'S GOT TO HAVE HER SECRETS.

BAM

YOU REALLY DIDN'T THINK THIS ONE THROUGH, CALLISTO... EVEN IF I COULDN'T TAKE YOU MYSELF, THERE'S A MASS OF FIREPOWER IN THE CLUB ABOVE US THE LIKES OF WHICH YOU'VE RARELY SEEN UP CLOSE.
A QUICK TELEPATHIC SHOUT-OUT AND THIS KIDNAPPING NONSENSE IS OVER...

THIS ISN'T A KIDNAPPING, YOU BRAT.
IT'S A WARNING.

WAIT. WHAT?

A WARNING ABOUT WHAT?

...A WARNING THAT IF YOU HURT PETER, I'M GONNA PERSONALLY MAKE SURE YOU REGRET IT, PRYDE.

HE LOVES YOU, SO I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU. THAT WOULD ONLY HURT HIM, WHICH GETS ME NOWHERE.

BUT HE'S A GOOD MAN, PRYDE, AND THOUGH HE'S NOT EXACTLY THE SAME MAN TODAY THAT I KNEW WHEN WE WERE TOGETHER, HE STILL DESERVES FAR BETTER THAN THE LIKES OF YOU...

...OR ME.

I...WHY WOULD I HURT PETER? I LOVE HIM.

YES. WELL. WE ALWAYS SAVE THE MOST HURT FOR THOSE WE LOVE, DON'T WE?

I'M NOT GOING TO HURT HIM, CALLISTO.

GOOD. BUT JUST KNOW THAT IF YOU DO, YOU'LL BE ANSWERING TO ME.

...FAIR ENOUGH.

...OH MY.

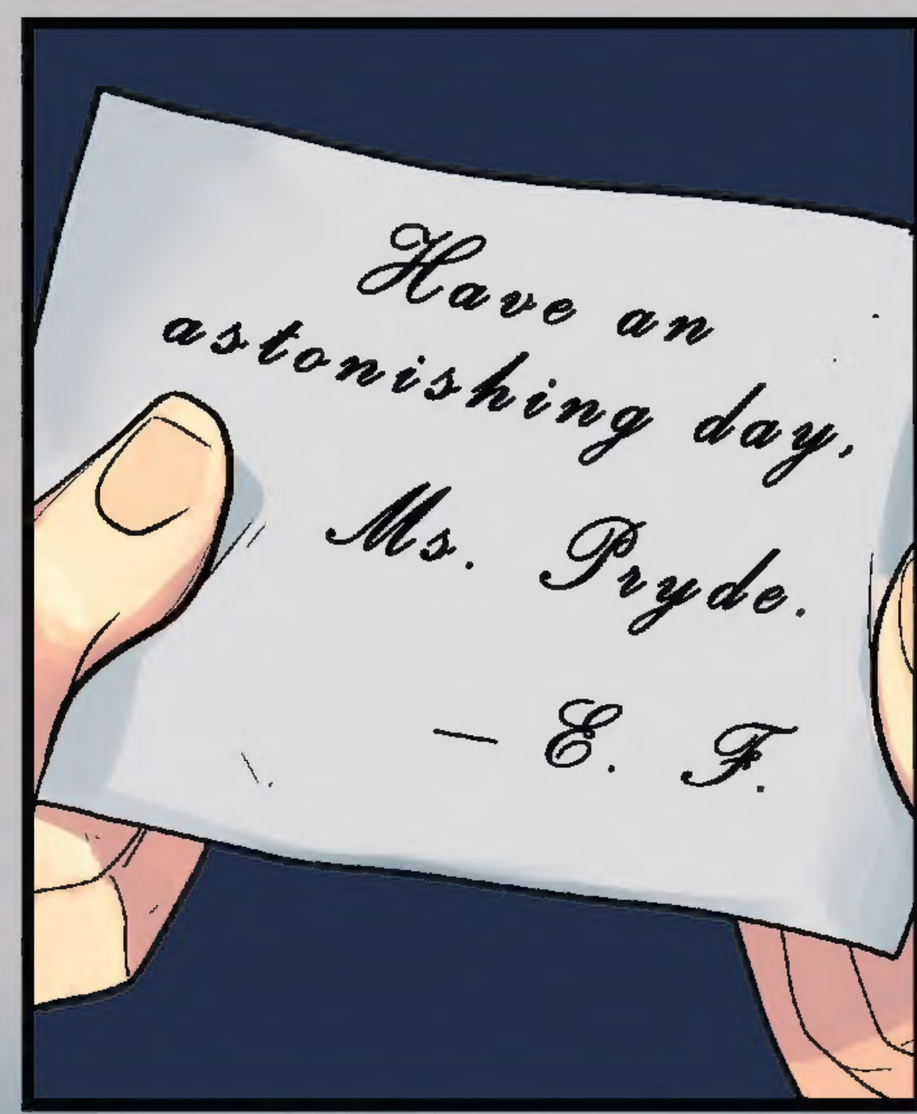
WOW. I GOT HERE JUST IN TIME.

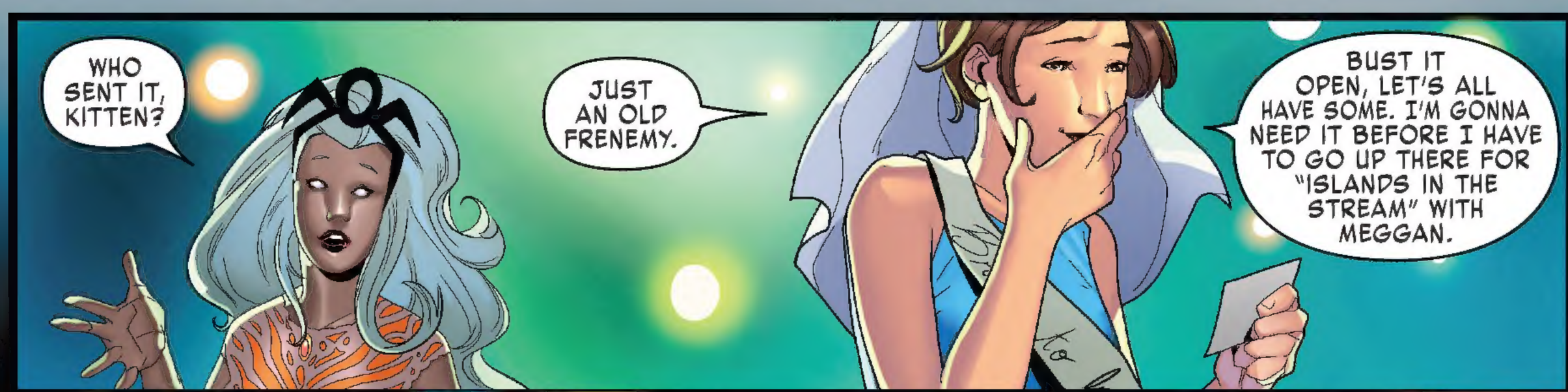
YES!

STORM'S SO GOOD! FORGET X-MAN, QUEEN, GODDESS...I HONESTLY THINK SHE MISSED HER TRUE CALLING OF ROCK STAR!

WOOO!

I CAN'T BELIEVE ALISON IS MISSING THIS.





YES!

EXCELLENT. WHAT OTHER SONGS SHOULD WE MAKE KITTY DO?

YOU GUYS KNOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE *MY* DAY, RIGHT?

NOT YET IT'S NOT. LET'S HEAR THESE SONG IDEAS, PEOPLE.

I HAVE SO MANY SUGGESTIONS. AND YOU WILL ***HATE*** THEM ALL.

I FEEL LIKE SINCE I'VE BEEN DEAD FOR A LONG TIME, I SHOULD GET FIRST PICK.

THAT'S FAIR. YOU FIRST, JEAN. DOES ANYONE HAVE ANY PAPER? WE NEED TO MAKE A VERY ***LONG*** LIST.

GROAN

THE END.

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